

Remarks

This amendment, under Rule 312, amends claim 39 to include "titanium" as a possible member of the group for the metal layer.

This amendment makes claim 39, in naming the group which forms the metal layer, consistent with each and every other independent claim in this application. For example, claim 21 includes titanium as being a possible member of the group as does independent claim 32.

This amendment is supported by the disclosure at page 17, lines 9-11.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this amendment pursuant to Rule 312. It is submitted that no substantial amount of additional work is required on the part of the patent office given the fact that the very same groupings of material have already been fully considered in the examination of the other independent claims in this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed and the petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Office with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, POB 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

March 4, 2004

(Date of Deposit)

Avelyne Malonzo

(Name of Person Signing)



(Signature)

March 4, 2004

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Berg
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 28,145
LADAS & PARRY
5670 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 2100
Los Angeles, California 90036
(323) 934-2300